

MSG From: IBMPC --YKTVMV To: IT32730 --VIMVMOA 02/09/93 08:13:21a  
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---- ASTRO FORUM appended at 00:57:41 on 93/02/09 GMT (by TRIBLET at STLMVS1)  
Subject: Interesting talk.

Bay area folks may be interested in the following:

STL SEMINAR SERIES

TOPIC: The Hazard Of Cosmic Impacts

or

Chicken Little Was Right

SPEAKER: Dr. David Morrison

Chief, Space Science Division

NASA Ames Research Center

DATE: Thursday, February 11

2:30 p.m.

LOCATION: California Grand Room  
(The main STL cafeteria, aka K222 -- Chuck)

COORDINATOR: H. D. Leeds (3-4236)

ENROLLMENT: Seats on first-come basis

DESCRIPTION:

Collisions of near-Earth asteroids and comets with Earth represent a significant natural hazard with the potential for global catastrophic effects. Over geologic time, occasional large impacts have caused mass extinctions and influenced the evolution of life. However, smaller and more frequent impacts than those associated with mass extinctions can still pose considerable threat to human life and property. For us as individuals, the greatest hazard is associated with objects 1 km or larger in diameter; these impacts take place several times per million years and are capable of short-term climatic perturbations that could cause the loss of crops and global starvation. A program is outlined that could detect potentially hazardous objects with sufficient warning to take corrective action if one were expected to strike Earth within the next few decades.

David Morrison is a planetary scientist and Chief of the Space Science Division at NASA Ames Research Center. He received his Ph.D. in astronomy from Harvard University in 1969. He is President of Commission 16 (Planets and Satellites) of the International Astronomical Union. Morrison is an interdisciplinary scientist for the Galileo mission to Jupiter. He is the author of 12 books and more

than 100 research papers. An asteroid, 2410 Morrison, is named for him.

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